



# Mowing the Lawn

## DID YOU KNOW?

Grass clippings contain phosphorus, the nutrient that turns lakes green with algae. One bushel of fresh grass clippings can contain 0.1 lbs of phosphorus – enough to produce 30 – 50 pounds of algae growth if it finds its way to a lake or river!

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- \* Direct grass clippings away from streets, driveways, sidewalks and other paved areas.
- \* Sweep up grass clippings and return them to the lawn.
- \* Mow the lawn at a higher setting (over 2.5 inches) letting shorter blades fall back onto the lawn as natural fertilizer.
- \* Mix grass clippings with leaves and soil to make a backyard compost pile.
- \* Water your lawn in the early morning hours to avoid wasting water due to evaporation.
- \* Evaluate your lawn needs and only water when necessary.



## Tips

A healthy lawn requires about 1 inch of water a week.

Check for moisture in the soil about three inches under the surface by probing with a screwdriver.

To determine the rate at which your sprinkler system applies water to your lawn, place several small containers in the area being watered. Run the system for 15 minutes, then measure the depth of water in all of the containers and average them. Multiply the average by four to determine how much water is applied to the lawn per hour.

Watch the weather to see if watering the lawn this week is necessary.



## Benefits

Grass clippings are composed of 85% water!

With grass recycling, use of fertilizers can be reduced by 30 – 40% or more!

Lawns mowed higher are more competitive against weeds.

Lawns mowed higher withstand heat stress better, need less watering, and are more resilient, reducing bare spots and soil erosion.

Please visit Fond du Lac County Urban Storm Water Management website for more information.  
<http://www.fdlco.wi.gov/Index.aspx?page=1094>